

**MINUTES**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2003**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, One Civic Center**

**Present:** Chairman John Shultz  
Vice Chair Patty Badenoch  
Commissioners Sue Alsworth, Dick Kiesell and  
George Knowlton  
Nancy Wendorf (arrived 5:18 PM)

**Staff Present:** Raun Keagy

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Neighborhood Enhancement Commission was called to order at 5:10 PM and members were present as stated above.

**APPROVAL OF 1/15/03 MEETING MINUTES**

COMMISSIONER KIESELL MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 15, 2003 MINUTES. VICE CHAIR BADENOCH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 5-0.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE COMMISSION ACTION ON A NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDING PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FROM THE SANDPIPER SCOTTSDALE ASSOCIATION**

David Coleman and John Ryan were in attendance to represent the POA. As discussed at the Commission's meeting in January, a vote was held by the homeowners on January 28<sup>th</sup> and a special assessment of \$900 per home was approved by 127 out of 160 homeowners. The entire project will cost about \$144,000 with about \$30,000 of that going toward a security gate. Some of the homeowners expressed concerns about the gate but no concerns were expressed in regard to the landscaping. Responding to Commissioner Kiesell, Mr. Coleman said the project would go forward even if the funding was not approved because the special assessment would cover costs.

Commissioner Kiesell expressed he did not feel this application met the spirit of NEC guidelines and since the special assessment would cover the costs, he could not support it.

COMMISSIONER KIESELL MOVED FOR DENIAL OF THIS REQUEST. VICE CHAIR BADENOCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Kiesell further explained he found it difficult to separate the gate costs from the landscape costs and this Commission did not fund private gates. Furthermore, the vote by the homeowners covered everything.

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Mr. Ryan expressed confusion, saying he understood this application did meet the criteria for NEC funding and would have separated the costs further had they known it would help their case.

Mr. Keagy said normally staff reviewed all invoices and separated those that could not be reimbursed. The Commission has approved such projects in the past that had extra expenses.

Commissioner Knowlton said he had a problem with others perception of this case if it were approved; they would think the city funded the gate.

Commissioner Wendorf wondered if it would help if the applicants amended their application, removing all mention of the gate, and resubmitted.

Vice Chair Badenoch said this was already a beautiful entryway and she felt the Commission's funding should be used in a better way.

Chairman Shultz felt bad about the situation and felt the application carried enough weight. They were adding xeriscaping and reducing water, so he did not agree with the motion.

Commissioner Alsworth agreed with Chairman Shultz and pointed out the issues were not distinguished at last month's meeting. She regretted the applicants did not segregate the gate costs at their POA meeting.

Mr. Coleman pointed out that their bids attached to the application were only for landscaping, not the gates. Discussion of the guidelines followed.

Mr. Ryan said the Board would refund money to the homeowners if this request was approved.

Mr. Keagy said this denial, if the Commission so chose, should be based upon their ability to fund the entire project and not about the gate, as that was a moot point.

Commissioner Wendorf said that if they looked at precedence, the Commission has approved projects in the past after someone had answered they would still do the project if the city funding was not approved.

THE MOTION FOR DENIAL FAILED BY A TIE VOTE OF 3-3, WITH CHAIRMAN SHULTZ, COMMISSIONER ALSWORTH, AND COMMISSIONER WENDORF DISSENTING.

COMMISSIONER ALSWORTH MOVED THAT THE APPLICANT RESUBMIT THIS APPLICATION AND NOTIFY THE HOMEOWNERS OF A REDUCED AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT. THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

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COMMISSIONER WENDORF MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE SANDPIPER'S APPLICATION FOR \$5000. COMMISSIONER ALSWORTH SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH FAILED BY A TIE VOTE OF 3-3 WITH VICE CHAIR BADENOCH, COMMISSIONER KIESELL AND COMMISSIONER KNOWLTON DISSENTING.

Mr. Keagy clarified for Mr. Coleman and Mr. Ryan that they could resubmit their application after a 7<sup>th</sup> member was added to the Commission next month, alleviating the tie vote, if they so chose.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE COMMISSION ACTION ON A NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDING PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FROM THE POWDERHORN RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

P. J. Staun, President of the Board for Powderhorn Ranch HOA, was in attendance to answer questions regarding their application for funding for replacement of mailboxes. He discussed security, aesthetics, and 'realities' of bigger mailboxes.

Responding to Commissioners, Mr. Staun also discussed other issues in the HOA which have been shelved for the time being and will be funded from reserves or operating funds.

Mr. Keagy remarked that staff has worked with the US Postal Service on issues of mailboxes and the PO will not replace them.

COMMISSIONER ALSWORTH MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF \$5000 IN NEC FUNDING. COMMISSIONER KNOWLTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE COMMISSION ACTION ON A NEIGHBORHOOD FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT ROCK PROGRAM**

Michelle Bruce, Code Enforcement Inspector, returned to discuss this proposal and presented updated guidelines and agreement forms per input from the Commission at last month's meeting. She distributed samples of the two types of rock to be used for landscaping.

Chairman Shultz suggested that instead of the product "Round-Up" listed in the instructions for yard preparation, use the term "pre-emergence" as he felt "Surflan" was a better product but it would be better not to use a brand name at all.

VICE CHAIR BADENOCH MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF \$10,000 NEC FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT. COMMISSIONER KIESELL SECONDED THE MOTION.

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Chairman Shultz expressed the wording on the agreement in regard to their financial needs should be changed to comply with federal guidelines or have a stipulation of 80% median income.

Commissioner Kiesel felt this should not become too restrictive or bureaucratic, so perhaps a happy medium could be found.

Further discussion was held of the pros and cons when dealing with federal funds and public records. Mr. Keagy was confident staff could come up with something that would raise the comfort level of the Commission and satisfy the City Attorney but not be as restrictive as federal guidelines.

VICE CHAIR BADENOCH MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO STIPULATE THAT STAFF WOULD REVISE THE AGREEMENT WITH STRONGER LANGUAGE. THE SECONDER, COMMISSIONER KIESELL, AGREED TO THE AMENDMENT. THE MOTION WITH THE AMENDMENT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

**DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL BALLFIELD MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Keagy distributed an executive summary from the Parks and Rec office regarding youth sports programs and noted the Parks and Rec Commission was also involved. He offered to have someone speak on the issue at the March NEC meeting.

COMMISSIONER KIESELL MOVED FOR CONTINUANCE OF THIS ITEM TO THE MARCH MEETING. COMMISSIONER KNOWLTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE COMMISSION ACTION ON CHANGING THE STARTING TIME OF COMMISSION MEETINGS**

After discussion, most of the Commissioners desired a later starting time for NEC meetings.

COMMISSIONER ALSWORTH MOVED TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS TO REFLECT A 5:30 PM STARTING TIME. COMMISSIONER KNOWLTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

**STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES (A.R.S. 38-431.02 (K))**

Mr. Keagy distributed information on upcoming events for Commissioners to possibly attend.

Mr. Keagy informed Commissioners that the Neighborhood Funding Partnership program was being placed on indefinite hold due to the economic situation of the city and necessary budget cuts. This was considered a discretionary program.

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He further explained there was about \$25,000 in funding already approved by the Commission and another \$25,000 in process after tonight's meeting, so the Financial Services Department had left \$50,000 in their budget to cover those costs.

Mr. Keagy requested input from the Commission as to their feelings on the importance of this program and neighborhood revitalization and whether they desired to request more funding from City Council. Other projects throughout the city were being put on hold as well, so he wanted them to weigh the merits. With no applications to discuss each month, the Commission might need to 'reinvent' themselves. Mr. Keagy also suggested it might be helpful to hold a retreat to discuss issues and where their energies might be redirected.

Discussion was held about possibilities of partnering with corporations and tightening up the program to save money.

Chairman Shultz summarized that the Commission felt strongly that this program should continue. He hoped some Commissioners could meet informally to draft a position statement.

Mr. Keagy felt some sort of compromise was still viable at this time and it would be a detriment to the community if this program went away. Perhaps scaling back to a \$50,000 program was an option.

**OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC** (A.R.S. 38-431.02) There were no other public speakers.

**NEXT MEETING DATE AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting date will be March 5, 2003 at 5:30 PM. The NFP balance is \$50,000 after budget cuts, but not including pending actions.

Commissioner Alsworth noted she had received an e-mail from the Assistant Fire Chief regarding the fire hydrant issue and that project had also been placed on hold.

**ADJOURNMENT** With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Dragman  
Recording Secretary